



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

July 2018

# San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

## Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement



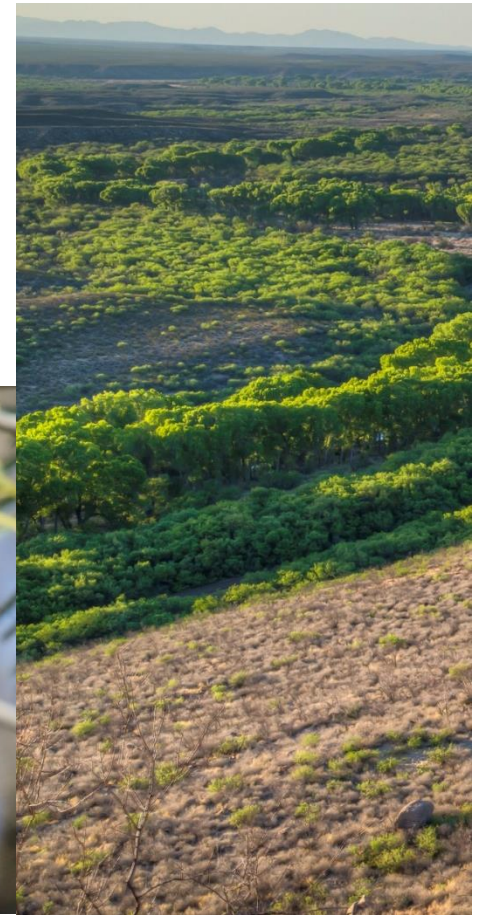




# Welcome & Team Introductions

Gila District Manager - Scott Feldhausen

Project Lead - Amy Markstein





# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome & Team Introductions
- Meeting Objectives
- Plan Presentation
- Participant Discussion
- Next Steps
- Adjourn to Open House



# Meeting Administration

- Where are the rest rooms?
- Room temperature
- Cell phones 📞
- Critique ideas, not people... show respect for the views of others
- Avoid side conversations
- Listen with an open mind – many different users
- Focus on functional, constructive controversy
- Thirty second soapbox? 🕒
- Communicate effectively by actively listening
- Enjoy our time together 😊



# Meeting Objectives

- Share an overview of the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)
- Provide an opportunity for questions and comments
- Explain how to best provide comments
- Explain the next steps







# What is a Resource Management Plan?

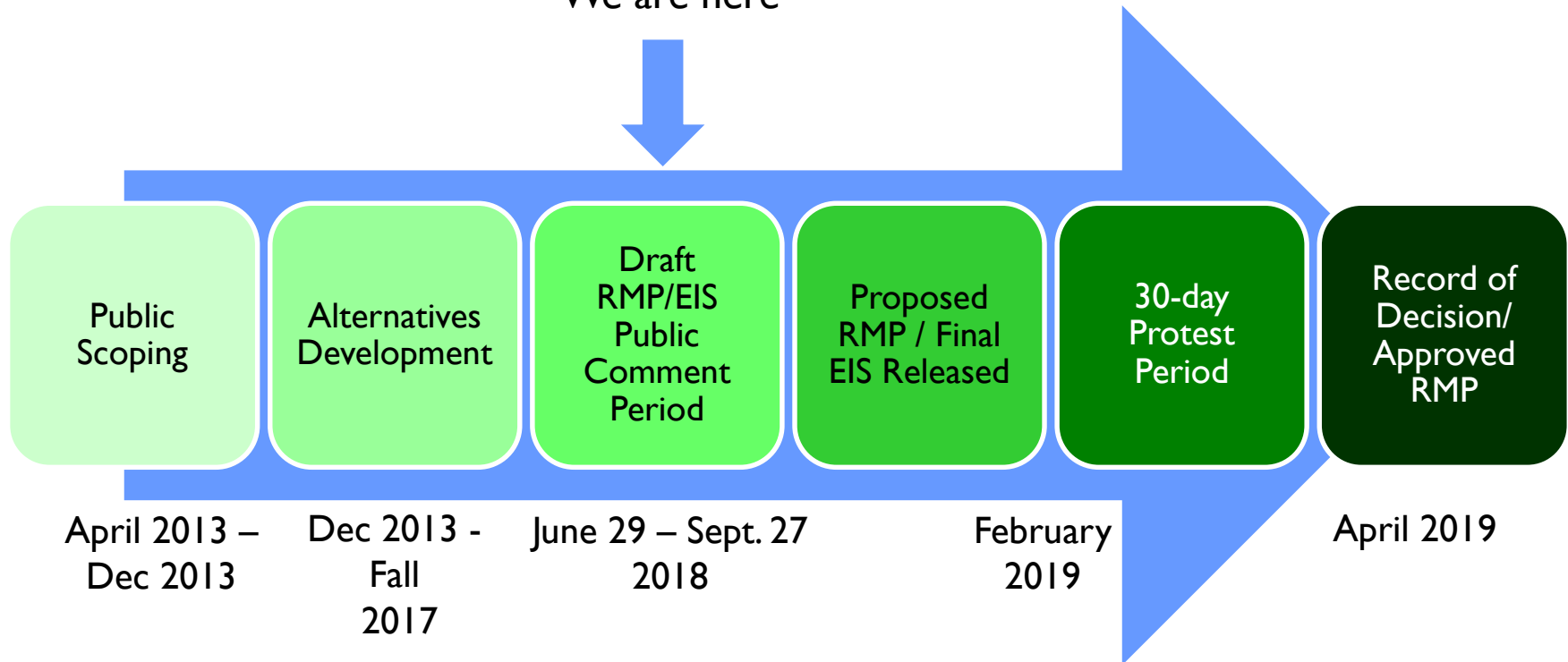
- Similar to city/county “land use plans”
- High level framework that guides management decisions
- Establishes goals and objectives for resource conditions
- **Does not** authorize on-the-ground actions





# Process: Where are we?

We are here





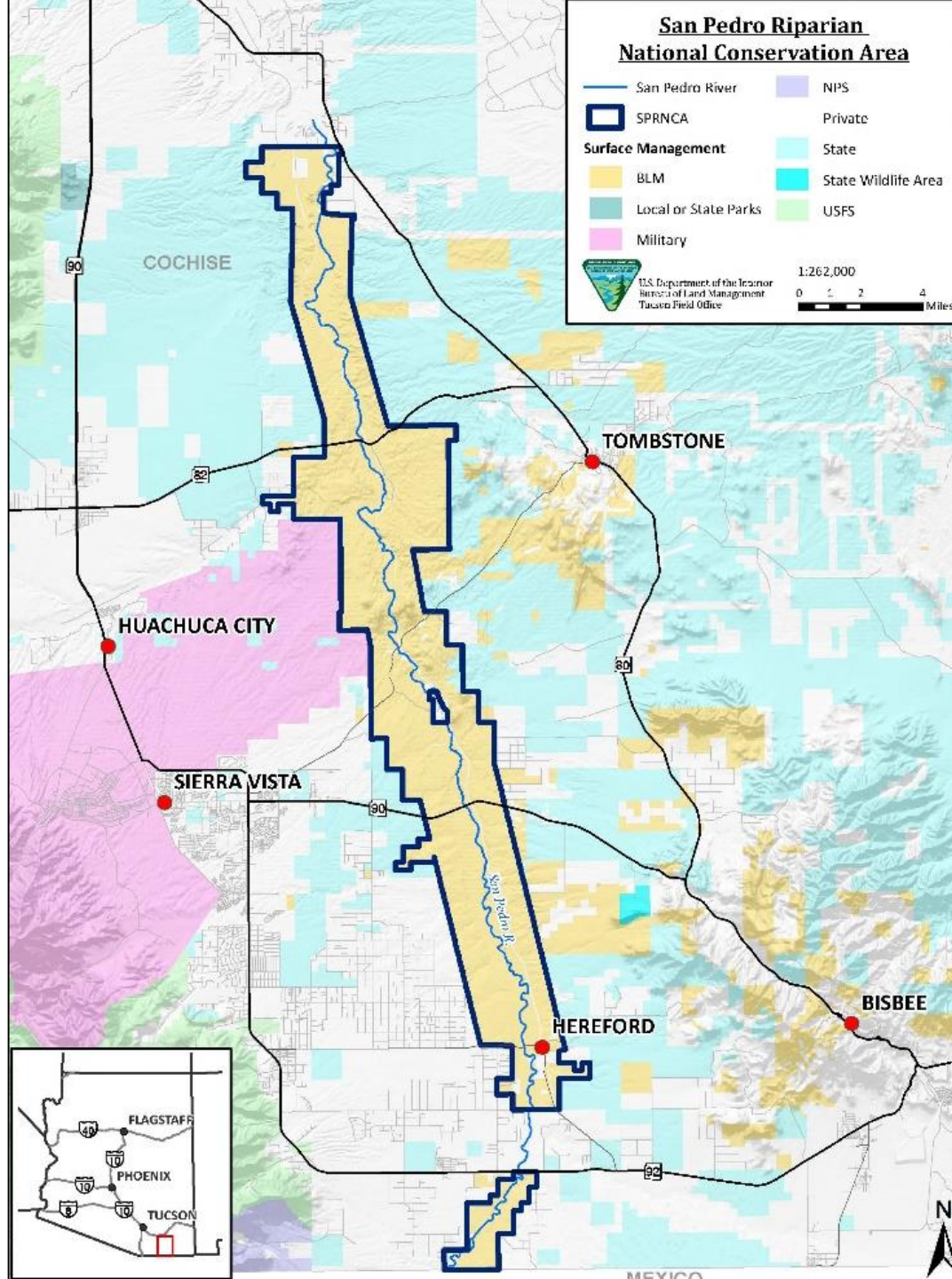


# Enabling Legislation

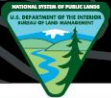
The Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 established the SPRNCA to “...*protect the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archaeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the public lands surrounding the San Pedro River in Cochise County, Arizona.*”

“*The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the conservation area as he finds will further the primary purposes for which the conservation area was established.*”









# Why is an RMP Necessary?

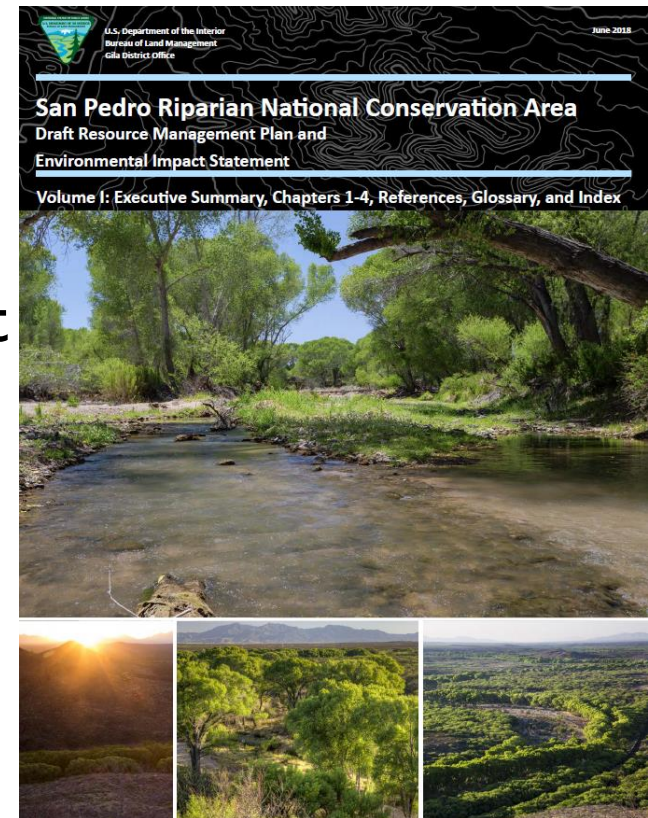
- Update decisions from the 25-year old Safford District Resource Management Plan & San Pedro River Riparian Management Plan
- Address changing resource conditions
  - Increased population growth
  - Increased demand for access
  - Increased demand for groundwater that could impact the riparian, wildlife, and recreational values of the SPRNCA





# Draft RMP/EIS Organization

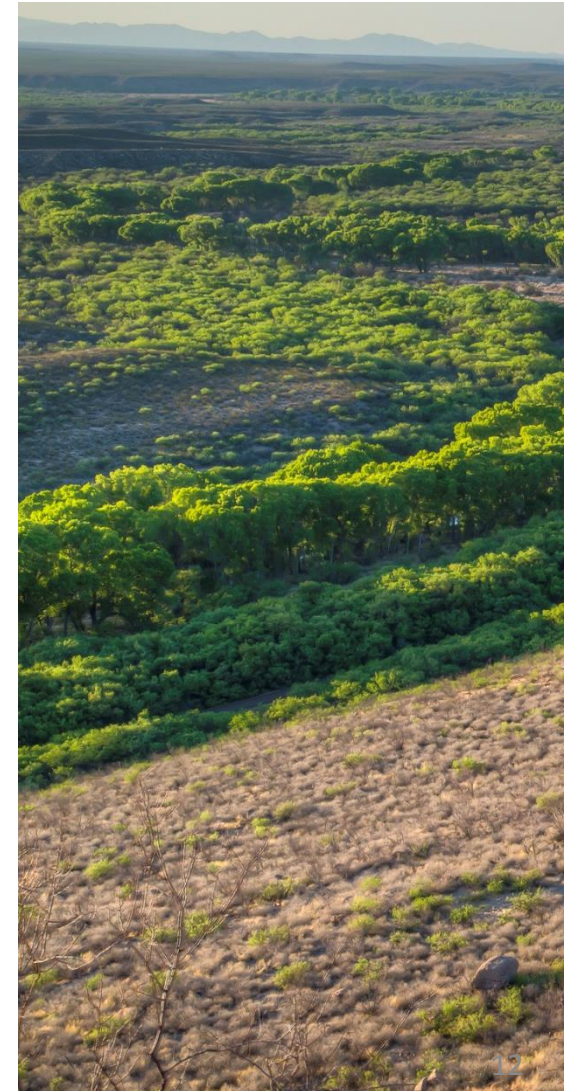
- Volume I
  - Executive Summary
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction
  - Chapter 2 – Alternatives
  - Chapter 3 – Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences
  - Chapter 4 – Consultation and Coordination
- Volume II
  - Maps
  - Appendices





# What are Alternatives?

- Each alternative provides a unique mix of management strategies and allowable land uses
- The “no action” alternative depicts current management and decisions moving forward unchanged
- All other alternatives depict modifications or additions to the outdated plans
- Reasonable range of alternatives
  - Provides context for impacts







# Chapter 2: Alternatives

- Alternative A – Current management (No Action)
- Alternative B – Increased use
- Alternative C – Balance appropriate use levels with the established conservation values
- Alternative D – Focus on protective designations and “light on the land” management





# Alternative A – No Action

- Continuation of existing management under the *Safford RMP* (1992 and 1994) and the *San Pedro River Riparian Management Plan* (1989)
- Neither sets desired outcomes for resource management or uses nor addresses new issues
  - Existing levels of access and recreation
  - Livestock grazing would occur on four existing allotments
  - Restoration on a case-by-case basis
  - No acreage to protect wilderness characteristics
  - Three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern would continue







# Alternative B

- Desired outcomes:
  - Broadest array of management tools
  - Vegetation treatments
  - Water recharge enhancements
- Increased public access
- Livestock grazing across the entire SPRNCA
- No acreage to protect wilderness characteristics
- No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- The San Pedro River would be suitable as recreational
- The Babocomari River would not be suitable





# Alternative C – Preferred Alternative

- Desired outcomes:
  - Broadest array of management tools
  - Vegetation treatments
  - Water recharge enhancements
- Mix of recreational opportunities
- Livestock grazing in the uplands
- No acreage to protect wilderness characteristics
- No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- The San Pedro River would be suitable as recreational
- The Babocomari River would be suitable as recreational





# Alternative D

- Desired outcomes:
  - “Light on the land” management
- Focus on primitive recreational opportunities
- No livestock grazing
- 23,810 acres would be managed to protect wilderness characteristics
- The three existing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern would be expanded
- Two additional Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- The San Pedro River would be suitable as recreational, scenic, and wild
- The Babocomari River would be suitable as scenic



# Alternatives Summary

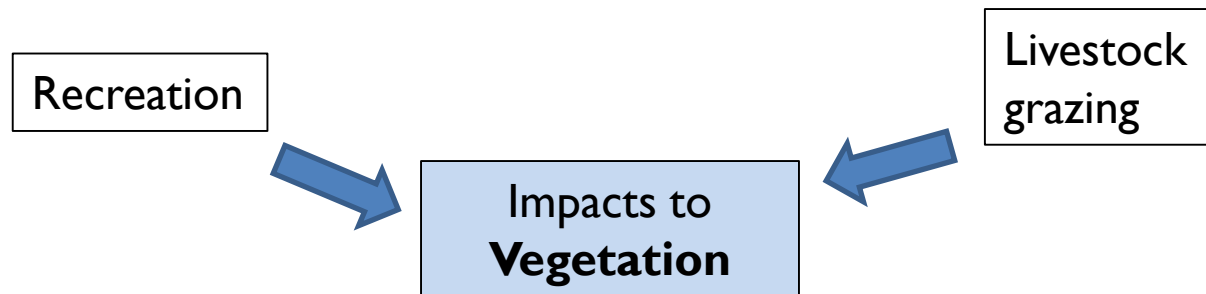
Alternative A No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C Preferred Alternative	Alternative D
Existing levels of public access	Increased public access	Balance between resource protection and public access	Focus on resource protection, conservation, and protect designations
Restoration on a “case-by-case” basis	Broadest array of management tools for restoration	Broadest array of management tools for restoration	“Light on the land” restoration approach
Livestock grazing would continue on existing allotments	Livestock grazing would occur across the entire SPRNCA	Livestock grazing would occur in upland areas compatible with the Conservation Values	No livestock grazing





# Chapter 3: Effects Analysis Orientation

- Environmental consequences describe impacts to a resource or resource use from other resource programs



- Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenarios used to estimate impacts



# Why are you here?

- Focus on Chapter 3
- Provide your comments to help us make the best decisions
- What else do we need to consider?







# How to make Effective Comments

## **Suggested**

- Specific changes
- Identify:
  - Where the issue or error is located (chapter, page)
  - Why
  - Alternative ideas
- Constructive solutions with documentation or resources

## **Not Suggested**

- Vague statements
- Opinions
- Not a vote for or against the alternatives
- Numerous comments expressing the same concern or issue is considered to be one comment
- Avoid using form letters





# Specific Comments

- Question the accuracy of information
- Question the adequacy, methodology, or assumptions
- Present valid new information
- Present reasonable alternatives







# How to submit comments

ePlanning page: <https://go.usa.gov/xUYjE>



Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Document Name	Release Date	Available Formats	Public Comment Period	
<a href="#">SPRNCA_DRMP_Vol1_508</a>	06/29/2018	(8148 KB)	Open (06/29/2018 - 09/27/2018 )	<a href="#">Comment on Document &gt;&gt;</a>
<a href="#">SPRNCA_DRMP_Vol2_508</a>	06/29/2018	(16427 KB)		

If you don't have internet access-  
Mail comments to:  
Attn: Amy Markstein  
3201 E. Universal Way  
Tucson, AZ 85756



# Questions





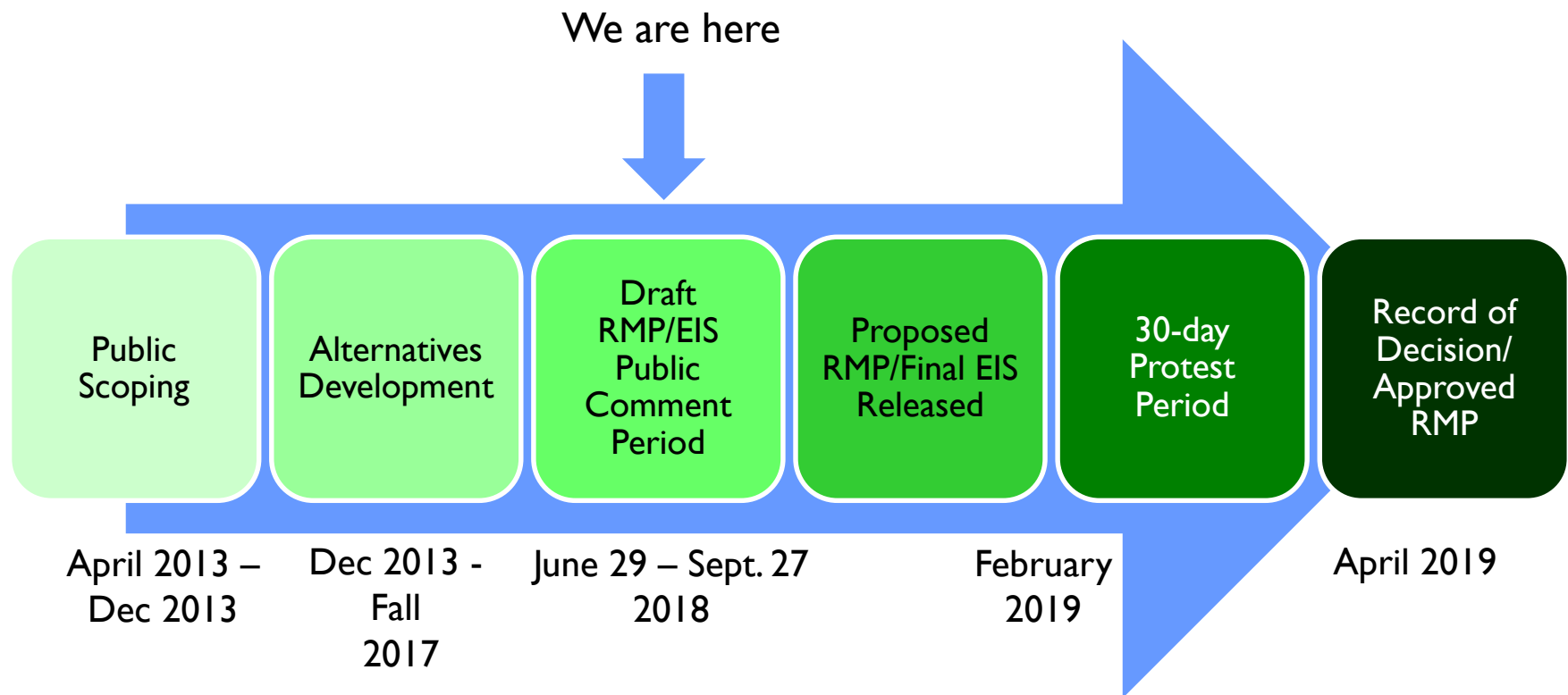


# Public meeting schedule

- July 30<sup>th</sup> – Sierra Vista, 5:30-7 p.m., Sierra Vista Police Department, 911 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Ariz.
- August 8<sup>th</sup> – Benson, 5:30-7 p.m., Cochise College, 1025 South State Route 90, Benson, Ariz.
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sierra Vista, 5:30-7 p.m., Sierra Vista Police Department, 911 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Ariz.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Tucson, 5:30-7 p.m., Pima Community College, 401 N. Bonita Ave., Tucson, Ariz.



# Process: Where are we?







# Tonight's Next Steps

- Provide your comments
- Talk to resource specialists around the room





# Next Steps

- **July 30<sup>th</sup> – Sierra Vista**, 5:30-7 p.m.,  
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The screenshot shows a web interface with a dropdown menu labeled "Document Name" containing the text "SPRNCA\_DRMP\_Vol1\_508". To the right of the dropdown is a button labeled "Comment on Document >>". A red rectangular box highlights the button.

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Attn: Amy Markstein  
3201 E. Universal Way  
Tucson, AZ 85756

Questions?

[amarkstein@blm.gov](mailto:amarkstein@blm.gov)